

the Strike Team Leader, demonstrating—as he has throughout his career—his extraordinary leadership and organizational skills.

Joe has been successful in securing many grants to help the fire department obtain vital equipment, such as self-contained breathing apparatus, EMS jackets, wildland shelters, truck rescue equipment, and portable radios.

The biggest accomplishment for a fire fighter is to not have anyone killed or seriously injured. Joe has a proud record of that accomplishment, even though he has fought a large number of big fires. Among them was a church fire in San Bruno that almost cost him his own life and the Salami fire in South San Francisco. In that fire Joe made what he calls “the best decision of his life.” He ordered 20 fire fighters out of the building right before its roof collapsed.

By far the biggest fire Joe and numerous fire fighters ever had to face was the “Glenview Incident,” the horrendous PG&E natural gas pipeline explosion in San Bruno on September 9, 2010 that killed 8 people and destroyed 37 homes. Due to the outstanding heroism of Joe and his colleagues, countless lives were saved. He was part of a world class emergency response team that prevented the disaster from reaching unimaginable proportions.

Joe has been married to his wife Cindy for as long as he has been Battalion Chief. They are the proud parents of three children, Jacquelyn, Joey and Wesley.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the members of this body to join me in honoring Joe Telles upon his retirement for his dedication to public service at the City of San Bruno Fire Department.

#### AFGHANISTAN WAR

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 20, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, Afghanistan continues to sink deeper into political crisis.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai's legitimacy and effectiveness as a leader is again being tested by the winners of last September's parliamentary elections. More than 200 parliamentarians have agreed to conduct a parliamentary session this weekend despite calls by President Karzai to delay the opening session due to complaints of fraud during par-

liamentary elections. Karzai appointed a special court to examine charges of fraud despite unanswered questions of massive fraud in his own reelection in 2009.

A May 2009 report by the United Nations, UN, estimates that the majority of the Afghan population lives in poverty, despite the country having received almost 40 billion in aid between 2002 and 2009. The report blames widespread corruption and abuse of power as a main cause of Afghan suffering, leaving ordinary people without even the most basic services.

If we accept the premise that we need to be in Afghanistan until corruption falls by the wayside, we will be in Afghanistan forever. We cannot afford to continue pouring billions of dollars in Afghanistan to prop up a hopelessly corrupt Afghan central government. It is time to end this war.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES P. FOX

### HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 20, 2011*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor James P. Fox for his public service as district attorney of San Mateo County for 27 years. Jim was first elected in 1982 and then re-elected every four years since without opposition.

I first worked with Jim when I served on the Board of Supervisors. Even then, he was known as the “Silver Fox” for the luxurious topping of silver on his head. During my time in the California Legislature, I received many calls from Jim who often offered suggestions regarding legislation. We worked closely together on strengthening California's laws so that non-paying obligor parents would pay up what was owed. He once told me he saw a local realtor depicted as a family man in an advertisement with his new wife and their children on a beach, all the while failing to support his former wife and their children. Jim wasn't afraid to name names. The realtor paid up.

Jim courageously opposed the Three Strikes Initiative. He is a district attorney who has the courage to favor punishment when appropriate and who also favors treatment and deterrence through crime prevention. Jim is tough as nails but also thoughtful—a true pub-

lic servant. He decided at an early age to dedicate his career to the law. In third grade, home sick with pneumonia, he watched the McCarthy hearings on television and declared he would be an attorney.

Jim received his Bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of San Francisco in 1966 and his law degree from the University of San Francisco in 1969. In 1970 he started as a deputy district attorney for the San Mateo County District Attorney's office for four years before entering private practice for seven years in addition to serving as the city attorney of Half Moon Bay.

His dedication to public service has been outstanding. He has found time and energy to be a member of a number of commissions and committees, including the California Bar Association's Commission on Judicial Nominations Evaluations, the Criminal Law Advisory Committee, the Court Profiles Committee and the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Cameras in the Courtroom. He is a past president of the California District Attorneys' Association and a past vice president of the National District Attorneys' Association. Jim has been appointed twice to the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training.

Additionally, Jim has been very active in civic affairs. He served as a member of the Board of Directors of Mercy High School in Burlingame, the Board of Directors of Notre Dame High School in Belmont and Junipero Serra High School in San Mateo and as a member of the San Mateo County Children and Family First Commission, now named First Five.

With all of these volunteer positions, Jim still finds time to pursue his culinary passion. His chocolate fudge is legendary. If you have attended county events with Jim, you may have encountered these delicious confections labeled with his signature golden sticker depicting a fox and proclaiming: “County of San Mateo, FOX FUDGE (not produced at government expense).”

Jim's wonderful sense of humor and easy smile endear him to his colleagues, friends and his family. He and his wife Bonnie of 42 years are the proud parents of three and grandparents of seven.

Mr. Speaker, it is right to honor James P. Fox for his tireless dedication to the public upon the occasion of his retirement on December 31, 2010, after seven terms as the District Attorney of San Mateo County.